

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01

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R 061708Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3676

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL VIOLENCE: MORE INCIDENTS, SOME INFERENCES

REF: LISBON 4431 AND PREVIOUS

1. LATEST INCIDENTS OF ANTI-COMMUNIST (PCP) VIOLENCE:

-- VILA NOVA DE FAMALICAO: FUNERAL OF CDS MEMBER, ONE OF TWO FATALITIES IN WEEKEND SIEGE OF LOCAL PCP HEADQUARTERS, SERVED AS TAKEOFF POINT FOR RENEWED ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE. ANGRY MOBS COMPLETED DESTRUCTION OF WHAT REMAINED OF PROFESSIONAL OFFICES OF PROMINENT LEFTISTS (REFTEL), THEN TURNED FURY ON PCP'S "WORK CENTER." TROOPS ON GUARD AT SCENE STOOD ASIDE AS CROWD ATTACKED.

-- SANTO TIRSO (SMALL LIGHT INDUSTRY CENTER LOCATED NEAR VILA NOVA DE FAMALICAO): CROWDS ASSAULTED OFFICES OF PCP, FELLOW

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TRAVELLING MDP/CDE, AND FAR LEFT FEC. IN EACH CASE PREMISES

WERE TRASHED, WITH FURNITURE AND FILES TOSSED INTO STREET AND BURNED. ONLY FORCES OF ORDER ON HAND REPORTEDLY WERE TWO YOUNG REPUBLICAN NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS, WHO LIMITED ACTIVITIES TO WITNESSING MOB ATTACKS. DEMONSTRATORS ALSO ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY HUNT DOWN LEADER OF LOCAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, ACCUSED OF BEING COMMUNIST, TO FORCE HIS REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

-- LISBON: IN PALE SHADOW OF EVENTS IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL, AUGUST 5 MEETING OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE REFUGEES WAS SCENE OF VIOLENCE ON SMALLER SCALE. AT LEAST ONE PERSON ATTENDING MEETING WAS ASSAULTED AFTER "PROVOKING" OTHERS PRESENT. JOURNALISTS FROM PCP-DOMINATED PORTUGUESE RADIO AND TELEVISION MEDIA WERE INSULTED, ABUSED, FINALLY FORCED TO LEAVE MEETING HALL. AMERICAN TV CREW FILMING EVENT ALSO MISTREATED BEFORE IDENTITY ESTABLISHED. PORTUGUESE PRESS WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY DOWNPLAYED ATTACKS ON FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IS SANCTIMONIOUSLY LECTURING ANGOLANS ON THEIR EFFRONTERY.

2. RELATED INCIDENTS:

-- PPD SECRETARY GENERAL EMIDIO GUERREIRO COMMENTED AUGUST 5 ON ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE, RECALLING THAT PPD MEETINGS AND OFFICES ALSO HAVE BEEN ATTACKED "AND NOBODY PROTESTED." GRURREIRO AFFIRMED PPD'S OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE, RENEWED CALL FOR FORMATION OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT "RESPECTS WILL OF THE PEOPLE."

-- SOCIALIST (PS) CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY LEADER LOPES CARDOSO LAID RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE AT PCP'S DOORSTEP, AFFIRMING THAT "WHO SOWS THE WIND REAPS THE WHIRLWIND." CARDOSO CLAIMED VIOLENCE IS BEING EXPLOITED BY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES PROFITING FROM DEMAGOGUERY AND IRRESPONSIBILITY OF PCP AND MDP LEADERS WHO "APPEALED FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST SOCIALISTS" IN JULY. PCP AND MDP ASSEMBLY DELEGATES WALKED OUT OF CHAMBER IN PROTEST.

3. SOME INFERENCES:

-- INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE NOT BEEN CONFINED TO THOSE RURAL AREAS OF NORTH WHERE TRADITION, ANTI-COMMUNISM AND PRO-CHURCH SENTIMENT ARE STRONGEST. PLACES SUCH AS VILA NOVA DE FAMALICAO, SANTO TIRSO, AND SAO JOAO DA MADEIRA ARE CENTERS OF SMALL BUSINESS AND LIGHT INDUSTRY NOT KNOWN AS STRONGHOLDS OF EITHER TRADITION OR CHURCH.

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-- FORCES OF ORDER ARE PROVING INCREASINGLY UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO INTERVENE AGAINST VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS. IN MOST RECENT INCIDENTS THERE WAS MORE THAN ADEQUATE WARNING TIME FOR SOLDIERS/ POLICE TO PREPARE. IN CASE OF VILA NOVA DE FAMALICAO TROOPS STOOD ASIDE; IN SANTO TIRSO THEY SIMPLY DIDN'T SHOW UP. OF COURSE THEY SELDOM INTERVENED EITHER WHEN PPD AND SOCIALISTS WERE BEING ATTACKED DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

-- FAR LEFT IS GETTING LUMPED TOGETHER WITH COMMUNISTS. INITIAL

ATTACKS WERE DIRECTED AT PCP AND FELLOW TRAVELLERS. MORE RECENT ATTACKS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST SOME FAR LEFT GROUPS AS WELL. SHOULD THIS TREND CONTINUE, FAR LEFT MAY FIND ITSELF FORCED TO ACCEPTING PCP LEADER CUNHAL'S INVITATION TO WORK IN COMMON CAUSE AGAINST FORCES OF REACTION, THEIR REVULSION OF "SOCIAL FASCISTS" NOTWITHSTANDING.

-- DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NOT ONE TIME AFFAIRS.

DISTURBANCES IN VILA NOVA DE FAMALICAO HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER 5-DAY PERIOD AND MAY NOT BE OVER YET. DEMONSTRATORS IN AVEIRO, RIO MAIOR, CADAVAL AND OTHER PLACES HAVE FOLLOWED UP INITIAL ACTS WITH MORE VIOLENCE AND PURGINGS OF KNOWN COMMUNISTS FROM BANKS, MUNICIPAL BODIES, AND COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, DEMONSTRATORS HAVE NOT HIT AND RUN, BUT HAVE ACTED OPENLY AND WITH IMPUNITY.

-- VIOLENCE IS NOT SUBSIDING. AUGUST 8 ISSUE OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LISBON DAILY "SECULO" COMPLAINED, WITH REASON, THAT PERPETRATORS HAVE "WON IN EVERY CASE WHERE THEY HAVE TRIED." IN PORTUGAL TOO, NOTHING IS SO LIKELY TO SUCCEED AS SUCCESS ITSELF.

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